

Testimony of Lucille Mabery

I am coming here today, before I go to my job on the night shift that starts at 10:45 tonite, because I want to support legal aid. Legal aid saved me from losing my housing this winter, and it is important that they get the money they need so they can be there to help other people in situations like mine. I don't write so well, so I asked my daughter Pamela, who lives in Atlanta, to write this for me:

My name is Pamela Mabery, and I am writing on behalf of my mother Lucille Mabery of 573 Dixwell Ave, Apt 18, New Haven, CT 06511, and the great job that Legal Aid Attorney Eppler-Epstein did for my mom. My mother is on subsidized housing and has been living in Presidential Gardens since 1981. She is a senior citizen and has worked and is still working in the State of Connecticut for over 40 years, making enough just to make ends meet.

As a low income provider she had fallen behind on her rent maybe a few times but has always paid late fee and paid the rent within the month it was due, and the housing managers would always accept it. Back in the summer, I had lost my job, and was not receiving any unemployment compensation yet. My mom sent me some money to help out me and my kids, until my unemployment check started coming in. I didn't know it at the time, but by her helping me and making sure me and my kids had food in our mouths, she had to pay her own rent late; but she did pay it, with a late fee.

I had came home from Georgia to visit my mom this past December and noticed that my mom was looking a little unhappy, and I asked her why. She told me the rental property was trying to put her out after being there for 29 years, even though she had paid up all the rent that she owed. She showed me some legal papers she had just received. I said mom, something is wrong here, the sheriff is going to be here tomorrow to put you out on the street. I asked my mom for the papers as being a senior citizen she had no clue as to how serious this matter was, because she did not know the law nor did she have money to pay for an attorney, or to move anywhere else. This is the first time she ever got served with eviction papers in her 29 years living there.

I got on the telephone and proceeded to call LEGAL AID. We reach someone who guided us to file papers for an "injunction" and to contact our local office in New Haven and to pick up the papers there and fill them out and take them to the court house. We were then referred to Attorney Amy Eppler-Epstein who took on my mom's case, and went to court. She explained my mom's situation to the Judge, and did the best legal research to get the case dismissed.

What I am trying to say is, Homelessness is a problem that affects many people in America and due to the recession and the lack of legal knowledge by our seniors LEGAL AID is much needed and appreciated. Without the help of legal aid, my mom would have lost her subsidized housing, and been evicted and homeless. Please keep the funding for legal aid so that they can keep helping people like my mom. Thank you.
Pamela and Lucille Mabery